

Message Text

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20

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 SAB-01 SAM-01 EB-11 COME-00 AID-20

TRSE-00 DRC-01 /122 W

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R 231440Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6305

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 2511

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BEXP EG

SUBJ: MASHHOUR'S REQUEST THAT BARRACCA COME TO
EGYPT WITHOUT DELAY

REF: CAIRO 2473

1. AT GERMAN RECEPTION LAST EVENING MASHHOUR APPROACHED ME TO AGAIN STRESS SCA'S URGENT INTEREST IN BEGINNING SALVAGE OPERATION. HE NOTED THAT MINE CLEARANCE TO THE MECCA, THE FIRST VESSEL BLOCKING THE CANAL LOCATED SOME SEVEN MILES BELOW PORT SAID, SHOULD BE COMPLETED IN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WORK BE BEGUN TO REMOVE MECCA. HE RECOGNIZED THAT IT MAY TAKE SOME MONTHS TO GET LIFT CRANES HERE, BUT THOUGHT THAT DISMANTLING OF SUPERSTRUCTURE COULD BEGIN WITHOUT DELAY.

2. I TOLD HIM WE ARE STILL REVIEWING MURPHY PACIFIC CONTRACT AND WOULD LET SCA KNOW AS SOON AS THIS WAS COMPLETED. I REITERATED TO HIM THAT USG WILL PAY MURPHY PACIFIC COSTS UP TO THE AMOUNT INDICATED IN FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMY'S LETTER OF FEBRUARY 28. MASHHOUR SAID HE WAS AWARE OF THIS AND COMMENTED THAT THE FINANCIAL ASPECTS CAN BE WORKED OUT LATER. IT WAS
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IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, THAT BARRACCA COME TO CAIRO WITHOUT

FURTHER DELAY TO DISCUSS WITH SCA HOW TO PROCEED.

3. COMMENT: WITH NIMBUS STAR UNDER WAY, SCA IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY RESTIVE RE STATUS MURPHY PACIFIC CONTRACT AND BARRACCA'S WHEREABOUTS. PLEASE INSTRUCT WHAT I MAY SAY TO MASHHOUR. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE NOW BE AS FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE TO DEMONSTRATE WE SHARE GOE'S INTEREST IN BEGINNING SALVAGE WORK EXPEDITIOUSLY. EILTS

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NNN

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